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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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rather than rewarding the guilty party (microsoft) by allowing them to continue monopolizing their markets, (under the guise of donating their products to schools and such) i think a more fitting punishment would be to compel microsoft to sponsor independent contractors to install the free and open-standard Linux operating system and compatible program on the computers they donate, and to train students, faculty, and other users on the use of Linux.

allowing microsoft to "lock in" even more customers by compelling the company to indoctrinate even more people in the use of their closed, proprietary products is no punishment at all. allowing microsoft to write off the retail cost of any software they donate is a reward--the company's true cost for this extra software is negligible, and they will profit from the sale of "upgrades." (the term "upgrades" is in quotes because traditionally microsoft's upgrades primarily consist of bug fixes and patches to their already faulty products.)

-ed cummings